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Thursday, November 3, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

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POLITICAL DISS-COURSE

Forty percent of teachers say in a recent survey they hesitate to teach about the election. 2



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Take our daily news quiz to test your knowledge by going to www.metro.us/news-quiz to submit your answers.

1. What measures did the Philadelphia district attorney say he'll take to ensure voters are free from intimidation at polling places on Election Day?
2. How many career double doubles does Joel Embiid have in the NBA?
3. Which rapper says he doesn't relate to the Black Lives Matter movement?

3 things you need to know

OBAMA SAYS US MULLING ALTERNATE ROUTES FOR N. DAKOTA PIPELINE

President Barack Obama said the U.S. government is examining ways to reroute an oil pipeline in North Dakota as it addresses concerns raised by Native American tribes protesting against its construction. Obama's comments late on Tuesday to online news site Now This were his first to directly address the escalating clashes between local authorities and protesters over Energy Transfer Partners' \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline project. "My view is that there is a way for us to accommodate sacred lands of Native Americans. And I think that right now the Army Corps is examining whether there are ways to reroute this pipeline," Obama said in the video interview. **REUTERS**



MISSISSIPPI CHURCH BURNED, VANDALIZED WITH 'VOTE TRUMP'

A black church in Mississippi was burned and spray-painted with "Vote Trump," officials said on Wednesday, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation said it was looking into the incident, which comes one week before the U.S. presidential election. No one was injured in the Tuesday evening blaze at Hopewell M.B. Church in Greenville, and the cause of the fire has not been determined, Greenville Fire Chief Ruben Brown Sr. said in a telephone interview. Black churches in the U.S. South have long been a base of support for the Democratic Party. The town of about 33,000 people is about 100 miles northwest of Jackson. "The FBI Jackson Division is aware of the situation in Greenville, and we are working with our local, state and federal law enforcement partners to determine if any civil rights crimes were committed," the agency said in a statement. Brown said the church was heavily damaged by the fire. **REUTERS**

GAWKER SETTLES WITH EX-PRO WRESTLER HULK HOGAN FOR \$31M

Shuttered irreverent news website Gawker Media LLC has reached a \$31 million cash settlement with Hulk Hogan, the former professional wrestler who won a \$140 million judgment against the site over a leaked sex tape. Hogan's judgment forced Gawker, known for its sassy tone and gossipy posts, into bankruptcy in June. Its sister websites, including sports site Deadspin and women's site Jezebel, were acquired for \$135 million by media company Univision Holdings Inc in a bankruptcy auction last summer. "As with any negotiation for resolution, all parties have agreed it is time to move on," said Hogan's attorney, David Houston. The settlement is subject to approval by a bankruptcy judge. Silicon Valley billionaire Peter Thiel said in May he helped fund the invasion of the privacy lawsuit filed by Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea. **REUTERS**



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2016



Republican nominee Donald Trump looks on as Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton speaks during the final presidential debate. **GETTY IMAGES**

Election 2016 is a minefield in the classroom, teachers tell Metro

In a recent survey, 40 percent of the teachers who participated reported hesitance to teach about this election.



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Nearly a year ago, when Donald Trump was still trying to curry favor with the GOP establishment, he made a gesture of interest in education.

"Nothing [is] more important than higher education and education in general," he said on Nov. 11, 2015. Yet in the following year, the young, impressionable minds of America seemed to be the least of his concerns.

After winning the Nevada primary in February, Trump even told the raucous crowd, "I love the poorly educated."

An election season once provided abundant teaching moments and gateways into academic topics, but the current presidential race has posed

an unusual assortment of challenges, say teachers from several states.

As media coverage has been swamped with reports of candidate misbehavior — whether it's emails or sexual misconduct — and strikes at racial and ethnic sensitivities, teaching this election is a minefield for educators.

"They see the candidates acting more like high school kids, not like adults. They're like, 'Hey, wait a minute, I get in trouble for that. Why don't they?'" Michael J. Maguire of the Boston Latin Academy told Metro.

I don't bring [the election] up because I have my opinion and they have theirs and that's not my job to impart that, but when it comes up, because it does, we talk about Roman politics, Greek politics, and the kids say, 'Oh, it's like when, fill in the blanks for what a candidate did,'" said Maguire, who teaches 9th and 12th grade Latin.

In a Teaching Tolerance survey of 2,000 teachers, 40 percent reported hesitance to teach about this election.

The study found that two thirds of immigrants and Muslim students expressed to their teachers concerns about what might happen to them or their families after the election; more than one-third of teachers observed an increase in anti-Muslim or anti-immigrant sentiment, and more than half have seen an increase in "uncivil political discourse," a phenomenon the study termed "the Trump effect."

"Now it's even hard to talk about the election. 'Did you hear what Trump said?' You're almost afraid to address it," Alan Malachowski, an elementary school teacher in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, told Metro.

"We spend a lot of time with bully prevention, helping students to recognize it — what does it look like, how do you handle it when you see it," he said, adding that the North Penn School District has been dedicated to a 10-year anti-bullying campaign. "Those rules are going out the window in our public discourse, the way the candidates speak to each other."

Frequently, teachers are forced to undo the damage and correct the misinformation they are getting from all angles.

"Our kids tend to believe everything they hear and read, and it isn't always from news. They are still getting their news from YouTube and Facebook, and take it for face value," said Joshua W., who teaches at a charter high school in New York.

"I spend a lot of time debunking myths."

As for positive role models, neither Trump nor Hillary Clinton are measuring up to Barack Obama, said Alexander Paolano, an 11th grade history teacher at New Castle County Vocational Technical School outside Wilmington, Delaware.

"It's not just Donald Trump. It's both of them," said Paolano, who is a lifelong Republican. "Barack Obama to them was so inspiring. And now they're stuck with this. There's a letdown now for a lot of them."

Sam Newhouse, Kristin Toussaint and Kimberly Aquilina contributed to this report.



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SEPTA hints at getting court order to end transit strike

Commuters were still stuck rearranging their lives as TWU Local 234's strike for a better contract continued for a second day.



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The city's transit strike continued to cause a transportation nightmare Wednesday and SEPTA management suggested they might go to court to end the walk-out.

Members of Transit Workers Union Local 234 on strike for a better contract from SEPTA already proved they're deadly serious by blocking Regional Rail employees from getting to work and causing massive delays for commuters on Tuesday night.

As of press-time



Members of the Transit Workers Union Local 234 picket outside SEPTA Southern headquarters on the second day of their city-wide strike, in South Philadelphia. **CHARLES MOSTOLLER**

Wednesday, the stand-off was continuing, as SEPTA and Local 234 were said to be continuing negotiations over a new contract.

SEPTA said it may need to seek a court order to compel workers to end the strike on Election Day next week.

"If we foresee an agree-

ment will not come to pass, SEPTA intends to seek to enjoin the strike for Nov. 8 to ensure that the strike does not prevent any voters from getting to the polls and exercising their right to vote," SEPTA said in a statement.

Union officials released a statement apologizing

to passengers inconvenienced by the strike.

"We regret the inconvenience to passengers caused when SEPTA forced a strike. That's why we reported our unanimous strike vote on Oct. 16, and stated consistently that there would be a strike if no new agreement was reached by midnight on Oct. 31," read the statement. "We never said that a settlement was close, because it wasn't. If SEPTA representatives said otherwise in the days leading up the strike, they were misleading the public. Unfortunately, this has made it more difficult for commuters to make alternative travel plans."

The union claims that SEPTA is offering members a pay raise at the same time as they ask for a hike in health care premiums, which would ultimately cut their take-home pay.

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Lisa Espinosa's son Raymond J. Pantoja was killed on April 10, 2016. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Justice for Hommi: Mom's courage helps cops find son's alleged killer

Lisa Espinosa did everything she could to raise awareness of the murder of her son Raymond RJ Pantoja, known as Hommi. That eventually prompted a witness to come forward.



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In a way, Lisa Espinosa is one of the lucky ones.

Just a few months ago, she was one of Philly's countless bereaved mothers of sons lost to street violence who tearfully told her son's story at anti-violence rallies, handed out flyers with his picture and pleaded for witnesses to come forward.

Her son Raymond "RJ" Pantoja, 26, known to his friends as "Hommi," was gunned down April 10 outside a Kensington club while in a fistfight with other men.

Unlike so many other mothers, in her case, her persistence worked.

Last week, she got the long-awaited text message from the homicide detective who was reviewing her son's case. "He is officially charged," it said. Espinosa got the text at work and fell to her knees screaming, she said.

That night, she went into her son's bedroom. She took the hundreds of flyers she still had printed up with RJ's picture, tore them up into confetti and threw them around the room.

"That night, I felt like this waxy, rubber-insulated plug just popped out of my chest," she said. "It was the first night since my son's murder I had a good sleep."

Police charged Giovanni Perales, 30, on Oct. 26 with shooting Pantoja to death

after an altercation between their groups of friends in a club on Allegheny Avenue and B Street spilled out onto the street.

Part of Espinosa's struggle with losing her son is over. The constant paranoia she experienced every time she saw someone whose build matched that of the killer is gone. But now she's entering a new stage of grief.

"Now I can grieve my son. This was Phase 1. Phase 2 is becoming a roller coaster for me," she said. "I still cry every night before I go to bed. And I still cry first thing in the morning when I wake up."

The new nightmare she lives through is what she saw on surveillance video: her son, who boxed as a youth, knocking people out as he defended his friends, before the suspect walks out of a crowd, presses a 9mm handgun to her son's chest and fires.

"Once I saw his face, that's the image that I have in my head constantly," she said. "Even when I don't want to think about it, that image is there."

Pantoja's murder went unsolved for months because none of the dozens of witnesses at the club that night would testify. Even the two friends who originally sparked the altercation wouldn't talk to cops. Instead they promised Espinosa "street justice"—which she didn't want.

"My son died defending friends who weren't even worth his loyalty," she said.

Instead, Espinosa undertook her own investigation, passing out flyers on Allegheny Avenue, while attending anti-violence rallies and trying to drum up more media and police attention.

Police say her appearance on TV inspired a key witness to approach police.

An expanded version of this story can be seen at metro.us

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DA promises fair elections despite white supremacist threats

A white supremacist group has touted plans to suppress the black vote in Philadelphia.



ALEXIS SACHDEV
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District Attorney Seth Williams doubled down on rhetoric Wednesday that Philadelphia's elections are fair and untarnished by voter fraud, despite allegations by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in recent weeks.

Williams outlined measures the city will take to prevent voter fraud, voter intimidation and other deterrents during a news conference with members of the city's Election Fraud Task Force and the watchdog group Committee of Seventy.

"Despite what some say, we do not have rigged elections anywhere in the United States," Williams said, "but especially here in Philadelphia, the place where our democracy was founded."

More than 70 assistant district attorneys and several dozen detectives, the most assigned to the task force to date, will respond to any concerns voters voice on Election Day, the district attorney's office said.

Members of the force will be deployed around the city before polls open, assigned to the Committee of Seventy's Election Day activities and stationed in the city's Central Election Court.

Anyone experiencing difficulty in casting their ballot, from write-in issues to illegal electioneering, can contact the task force at 215-686-9641, 9643 or 9644.

"I also want to make clear: Any attempt at harassment of a voter, no matter what reasons, will be met with the same full force of my office, that an attempt to illegally or impermissibly vote. It is not acceptable, and we will prosecute with the full-

est extent of the law," Williams said.

Williams' news conference comes after a white supremacist group touted plans to suppress the black vote in Philadelphia.

Neo-Nazi leader Andrew Anglin and an alt-right website Therightstuff.biz are developing plans to monitor polling places with hidden cameras, pass out booze and marijuana, and intimidate voters in "the ghettos in Philly," Politico reported.

"Many polling locations are in schools, and black schools are so disorderly that pretty much any official-looking white person with a clipboard can gain access to them ahead of time and set up a hidden camera," the plans state.

"You don't really ever even have to speak with an adult," the plans continue. "Simply walk in like you belong there and no one even asks you why you are there. So we usually go in teams of two, one person driving and one person dressed as a blue-collar worker with a clipboard, and we set up a hidden camera in the school cafeteria. Go during lunchtime and the teachers are all so busy trying to contain the kids that no one says anything. We already have a few set up."

"We also have some teams going in to the ghettos in Philly with 40s and weed to give out to the local residents, which we think will lead to more of them staying home. We have had success with this in the past," a representative with Therightstuff.biz said in an email.

According to Politico, groups like these are energized by Trump and his camp's claims that the election is rigged in both Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.

Trump said in August, "the only way we can lose [Pennsylvania] ... and I mean this 100 percent, if in certain sections of the state they cheat."



Residents cast their ballots in North Philadelphia. GETTY IMAGES

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Police seize marijuana plant worth \$50K, 15 guns in West Philly raids

Cops decided to send a message to drug dealers operating in West Philly right before Halloween.

Over three days last week, 64 suspects were arrested, and thousands of dollars worth of drugs were taken off the streets, as were 15 firearms and three vehicles, police announced Wednesday.

The raid began Oct. 26, with the execution of warrants to arrest certain individuals and bust up specific locations used for drug sales. On Oct. 27, police made arrests at open-air drug markets. On Oct. 28, bike cops and foot patrols saturated the area.

"It sends a message to bad guys that they're not going to deal drugs with impunity," said Narcotics Division Chief Inspector Dan McDonald at a news conference Wednesday.

The raid was intended to "deal with gang violence in the area" and "attack sources of violence" by going after the drug trade, according to the

Firearms seized from alleged drug dealers in West Philly. **SAM NEWHOUSE**

police department.

Police activity centered around 40th and Ogden streets, but extended as far as 52nd Street, officers said.

Inspector Verdell Johnson, commanding officer of Southwest Police Division, rode on Friday with about 50 bike cops on a bike patrol through the 16th police district, where the raid took place.

"People were waving at us, they were happy to see us. We had people coming up telling us they appreciated the hard work that we did," he said. "It let the kids know that the police are here and they're not your enemy."

Among the items

seized was a large marijuana plant one officer estimated at a street value of \$50,000.

"Because it's so large, once broken down into the street value, that's roughly somewhere in the area of \$50,000 worth of drugs," said Melvin Singleton, commanding officer of the narcotics field division.

Further investigations are looking into whether the 64 suspects are tied together in a criminal organization. And the guns seized during the raids are still being processed to determine their exact ownership, McDonald said.

"If you're living in that community and they're selling drugs in the house next door, they're not going have 10 kilos in the house, there's no Pablo Escobar in West Philly. But these are guys that are really destroying the community," McDonald said. **SAM NEWHOUSE**

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Whole Foods sales decline easing, Mackey to become sole CEO

Whole Foods Market on Wednesday reported a better-than-expected profit for the fiscal fourth quarter and said declines in same-store sales are easing, sending its shares up 4.7 percent to \$29.84 percent in extended trading.

Whole Foods also said Walter Robb will step down as co-chief executive officer, shifting duties to John Mackey, the grocery chain's co-founder, who will become the company's sole chief executive Dec. 31. Robb will remain on the company's board and continue as a senior adviser to the company.

The natural and organic food seller said same-store sales were down just 1.6 percent for the first month of the quarter through Oct. 30.

That was less steep than the 2.6 percent drop for the fiscal fourth quarter, which ended Sept. 25.

Austin, Texas-based Whole Foods, which reported improvements in traffic and the number of items purchased per visit, forecast same-store sales that are flat to down 2 percent for fiscal 2017. It said efforts to shed its "Whole Paycheck" nickname is gaining traction as it battles a bevy of rivals, including mainstream supermarket operator Kroger Co., discounter Wal-Mart Stores and aspiring grocer Amazon.com.

Whole Foods has been putting greater focus on affordability, opening more stores in its value-oriented 365 by Whole Foods Market concept and cutting prices at name-



Whole Foods GETTY IMAGES

sake stores while rebranding itself as America's healthiest grocery store.

Fourth quarter net income rose to \$88 million, or 28 cents per share, from \$56 million, or 16 cents per share, a year earlier. Analysts had expected a per share profit of 24 cents for the latest quarter.

Revenue rose almost 2 percent to \$3.5 billion for the quarter, held back in part by deflating prices for staples including meat and eggs.

REUTERS



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BRIEF

Jury set in trial of cop who shot South Carolina black man
A jury of 11 whites and one black was selected on Wednesday for the trial of Michael Slager, a white former North Charleston police officer accused of murder in the shooting death of unarmed black motorist Walter Scott last year.

Slager, 34, was arrested and charged with murder in April 2015 after a bystander's cellphone video emerged

showing him firing eight times at the back of Scott, 50, who was fleeing.

The video reignited a national debate over police use of deadly force against black men in America and the dangers of working as a law-enforcement officer in a heavily armed country.

Defense attorneys will say Slager felt threatened when Scott grabbed the officer's stun gun after a struggle and

pointed it at the officer.

Six white men, five white women and one black man were chosen to hear evidence and render a verdict in the case. The alternates are two white men, two white women and two black women. The group was selected by lawyers from about 180 potential jurors who reported for jury duty on Monday.

The jury will be sworn in and opening statements will

begin Thursday, after which Scott's family planned to address the media, a family spokesman said.

During elimination of jurors to reach the final 12 seated jurors and six alternates, prosecutors challenged the defense's strikes of jurors, saying they were illegally made on the basis of race.

Seven of the defense's nine strikes were against minorities.

REUTERS



Bill Cosby is lead out of Courtroom A of the Montgomery County Courthouse on Sept. 06 in Norristown, Pennsylvania. GETTY IMAGES

Cosby renews effort to toss sexual assault charges in Pennsylvania

Cosby is facing assault allegations going back decades from about 60 women.

Bill Cosby on Wednesday renewed his attempt to have sexual assault charges against him thrown out, with the comedian's lawyers arguing in a Pennsylvania court that an 11-year gap between the incident and Cosby's arrest had violated his rights.

The argument was made during a two-day hearing to determine the scope of evidence prosecutors can introduce at Cosby's trial next June, including whether they can call as witnesses more than a dozen other women who have accused him of sexual assault.

The accusation by Andrea Constand, a former basketball coach at Cosby's alma mater Temple University, is the only one to result in a criminal prosecution. Constand said Cosby gave her pills and then sexually assaulted her in 2004 at his house in Pennsylvania.

At the time, the Montgomery County district attorney's office concluded there was insufficient evidence to charge Cosby. But the unsealing in 2015 of sworn testimony Cosby gave during Constand's civil case, in which he described giving women quaaludes before sexual

encounters, prompted county District Attorney Kevin Steele to bring charges.

Angela Agrusa, an attorney for the comedian, said in court on Wednesday that the decade that passed had deprived Cosby of his due process rights and accused Steele of using Cosby as a "pawn" to advance his career.

But Deputy District Attorney Robert Falin said Steele had done what "any reasonable prosecutor" would do in light of new evidence: look again at the case and decide whether to bring charges.

Agrusa also argued that Cosby has become legally blind and cannot assist properly in his defense by examining documents.

Judge Steven O'Neill in Norristown, Pennsylvania, however, expressed skepticism that losing one's eyesight would be enough to justify dismissing the charges.

Prosecutors have asked O'Neill for permission to call as witnesses 13 other accusers to demonstrate what they say is a pattern of wrongdoing, an issue the judge is likely to take up later on Wednesday.

O'Neill on Tuesday heard arguments over whether Cosby's testimony from Constand's civil case should be barred from trial. It is not clear when he will rule on the various pretrial issues.

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Gunman suspected of killing two Iowa cops acted alone

Scott Michael Greene, who had recently flown a Confederate flag at a high school football game, was taken into custody in the killings in Des Moines and its affluent suburb Urbandale, police said.



Greene DES MOINES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Two Iowa police officers were shot and killed on Wednesday while sitting in their patrol cars in what police called unprovoked ambushes, and a 46-year-old suspect who investigators believe acted alone was captured hours later, officials said.

Greene, who has not yet been charged, had a recent run-in with police after waving a Confederate battle flag in the crowd while the national anthem was played at the start of a high school football game, Urbandale Police Chief Ross McCarty said.

Greene is white, as were both officers involved in the shooting, Des Moines police spokesman Paul Parizek told a news conference.

Police said they found the first slain officer's body at about 1:06 a.m. in Urbandale, and the second about 20 minutes later about two miles away in Des Moines.

The slain officers were identified as Sgt. Anthony Bemino of the Des Moines Police Department and Officer Justin Martin of the Urbandale Police Department.

A police cruiser at the site of the Des Moines shooting could be seen riddled with three bullet holes.

A 10-minute video posted on YouTube last month by a user calling himself Scott Greene showed an

interaction with officers following the flag incident. A voice, apparently Greene's, is heard complaining to police that "African-American people" took the flag from him in the stands and "assaulted" him, and saying he wanted to press charges.

The Confederate flag is a racially charged symbol for its association with the pro-slavery South in the Civil War and the Ku Klux Klan.

"There were people in the crowd who felt that was insensitive, and that he should be removed from the stadium," McCarty said.

Police officers shown in the video said he was removed from the stadium because he caused a disturbance in the stands.

"You have to understand, in the current social climate that we're in, when you fly the Confederate flag standing in front of several African-American people, that's going to cause a disturbance, OK, whether you intended to or not," a female officer is heard telling the man in the video.

McCarty told reporters that high school officials had banned Greene from their property following that incident, but had been trying to determine exactly how to enforce the ban given that Greene has a daughter who attends the school.

REUTERS

BRIEF

Chicago school head lauds 'cost-effective' teachers contract

The Chicago Public Schools should be able to afford a new contract with teachers, but it must continue to look to the state of Illinois for more money, the district's CEO said on Wednesday, less than a day after union members ratified the deal.

Forrest Claypool, who heads the nation's third-largest public school system, said the four-year contract will cost CPS \$400 million

less than the previous pact, which expired in 2015.

"While we're clearly not out of the woods yet, we are in better shape than we were under the previous contract," he told reporters, adding the new deal was the district's most cost-effective in decades.

Claypool said CPS must continue to cut costs and obtain more "equitable" funding from state officials, who have agreed to send the district a one-time \$215 million

pension contribution, which is contingent on the still-uncertain passage of pension reforms by lawmakers this year. The district included the money in its \$5.46 billion operating budget for the fiscal year that ends June 30.

CPS is struggling with pension payments that will jump to about \$720 million this fiscal year from \$676 million in fiscal 2016, as well as drained reserves and debt dependency. As a result, the district's credit ratings have fallen deeper

into the junk category.

The Chicago Teachers Union reported late on Tuesday that more than 70 percent of its members voted in favor of the deal, which was reached on Oct. 10, averting a strike the union had called for the following day.

A CPS fact sheet indicated a \$55 million boost in surplus revenue from Chicago's economic development districts will cover the cost of the new contract in the current fiscal year. REUTERS



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Armed militia girds for trouble as election nears

Down a Georgia country road, camouflaged members of the Three Percent Security Force have mobilized for rifle practice, hand-to-hand combat training — and an impromptu campaign rally for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

"How many people are voting for Trump? Ooh-rah!" asks Chris Hill, a paralegal who goes by the code name "Bloodagent."

"Ooh-rah!" shout a dozen militia members in response, as morning sunlight sifted through the trees last weekend.

As the most divisive presidential election in recent memory nears its conclusion, some armed militia groups are preparing for the possibility of a stolen election on Nov. 8 and civil unrest in the days following a victory by Democrat Hillary Clinton.

They say they won't fire the first shot, but they're not planning to leave their guns at home, either.

Trump's populist campaign has energized militia members like Hill, who admire the Republican mogul's promise to deport illegal immigrants, stop Muslims from entering the country and build a wall along the Mexico border. Trump has repeatedly warned that the election may be "rigged," and has said he may not respect the results if he does not win. At least one paramilitary group, the Oath Keepers, has called on members to monitor voting sites for signs of fraud.

Armed paramilitary groups first gained prominence in the early 1990s, fueled by confrontations in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, and Waco,

"This is the last chance to save America from ruin."

Hill

Texas, culminating in a militia sympathizer's 1995 bombing of a federal office building in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people.

Their numbers dwindled following that attack but have spiked in recent years, driven by fears that President Barack Obama will threaten gun ownership and erode the power of local government. The Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks extremist groups, estimates there were 276 active militias last year, up from 42 in 2008.

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Experts concerned by SpaceX plan to fuel rockets with people aboard

A proposal by Elon Musk's SpaceX to fuel its rockets while astronauts are aboard poses safety risks, a group of space industry experts that advises NASA has told the space agency.

"This is a hazardous operation," Space Station Advisory Committee Chairman Thomas Stafford, a former NASA astronaut and retired Air Force general, said during a conference call.

Stafford said the group's concerns were heightened after an explosion of an unmanned SpaceX rocket while it was being fueled on Sept. 1.

Causes of that explosion remain under investigation.

Members of the eight-member group, including veterans of NASA's Gemini, Apollo and space shuttle programs, noted



SpaceX's Falcon 9 GETTY IMAGES

SpaceX needs NASA approval of its launch system before it can put astronauts into space.

NASA said on Tuesday it was "continuing its evaluation of the SpaceX concept for fueling the Falcon 9 for commercial crew launches. The results of the company's Sept. 1 mishap investigation will be incorporated into NASA's evaluation."

SpaceX said it is developing its human launch operations "hand-in-hand" with NASA and has spent 18 months identifying potential hazards and how to handle them.

SpaceX, owned and run by technology entrepreneur and Tesla Motors Inc. CEO Musk, said it would re-evaluate its fueling system and launch processes depending on results of the accident investigation. REUTERS

that all previous rockets carrying people into space were fueled before astronauts got to the launch pad.

"Everybody there, and particularly the people who had experience over the years, said nobody is ever near the pad when they fuel a booster," Stafford said, referring to an earlier briefing the group had about SpaceX's proposed fueling procedure.



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ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Mila Kunis talks sexism in Hollywood and the workplace

Mila Kunis has proved she has the chops of a multifaceted actress — whether she was comedically thriving on “That ’70s Show” or “Family Guy” or bringing Oscar-worthy drama to “Black Swan.” But even with all of her success, she hasn’t been able to avoid the same sexism that so many women endure in every professional industry. The 33-year-old mother of one (soon to be two) penned an op-ed on husband Ashton

Kutcher’s site, A Plus, in which she recalled multiple experiences with gender bias, including pay gaps and other forms of dis-

crimination. In one incident, Kunis was told that she would “never work in this town again” after refusing to pose seminude on the cover of a men’s magazine. She also calls out those who continue to reference her as Kutcher’s “baby mama” instead of her own person.

But Kunis has had enough. She boldly declared: “From this point forward, when I am confronted with one of these comments, subtle or overt, I will address them head on.” Let ‘em know, Mila!

the word

SESALI BOWEN
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Taylor Swift details sexual assault by local radio DJ

The details of the ongoing legal battle between Taylor Swift and a former Denver radio DJ David Mueller have been released in a deposition obtained by TMZ. To catch you up, Mueller sued Taylor Swift for slander after he lost his job over accusations that he inappropriately groped the superstar in 2013. Swift fired back with a lawsuit of her own for battery and sexual assault.

The “Shake It Off” singer provided an emotional testimony in July in which she described the incident, stating, “He



reached up under my skirt and grabbed my ass right when I was having to pose for a photo, and it felt intentional that would be the time he would choose to do it.”

The photo in question, which may or may not document the moment Mueller alleg-

edly groped her, has been sealed by a judge, per Swift’s request. She claims she was “shocked and withdrawn” after the incident.

Needless to say, there is a ton of bad blood between these two. But we’re riding with Taylor on this one.

Prince Harry and ‘Suits’ star Meghan Markle are seriously dating

With all of the fairy tales suggesting royal balls and quests to slay dragons as the official courting rituals of princes, it’s almost hard to picture what it might be like to date one in 2016. Imagine Prince Harry’s Tinder profile: 32, 6’2.” Enjoys polo and rugby. Family first.

Luckily for 35-year-old “Suits” actress Meghan Markle, she doesn’t have to imagine, and she certainly didn’t have to swipe right. She and Prince Harry are a thing,



and it looks like their relationship is getting pretty serious. According to Us Weekly, the 32-year-old Prince of Wales secretly flew to Toronto on Friday to spend a few days with his lady love. The couple reportedly met through mutual friends and have been dating for the past few months. Daily Mail reports that Markle feels like “the luckiest girl in the world.”

Can you imagine the look on Markle’s exes’ faces right now?



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Don't say 'I won't vote'

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It's a week before the election, and I'm desperately hoping this is the last article I have to write about it. As a country, we've suffered so much over the last 18 months that the American Psychological Association had to put out election stress tips to help us cope. At this point, many of my friends, both online and off, have said they're just tuning it all out now that the debates are over. Many of them are not voting. No sentence is more frightening right now than "I'm not going to vote."

Are you kidding me? People fought and died for you to have this right! Other people leave their countries of birth because they can't vote there! We are, in effect, self-governed, as a famous women's suffrage poster stated.

Women fought so that would happen. You have this right and you're not going to use it?

I understand all about the Electoral College, but if the popular vote is wildly different, it can make a difference. I've heard friends and family say, "Well, my state goes this way, so what's the point?" Well, the point is you don't get to bitch if you don't participate. The point is this is your right, and if every eligible voter did their civic duty, it could change everything!

Look, whatever your political leaning, most people seem to realize that a person spouting hate speech, misogyny and anarchy probably isn't qualified to be president. But your vote is bigger than just the presidency — you're setting the course for the Supreme Court and national health policy. It may seem like things are leaning toward your candidate, but that's the danger. Everyone else will go vote, so you can stay home, right? You know what happens when a lot of people think that? Nothing

good. The side that is so fired up that they ignore the hate speech or completely embrace it certainly aren't staying home!

The thing that I think most people who don't vote fail to understand is this: The election isn't just about the president. You're voting for things that affect you directly as well. There are U.S. senators and representatives. There are local referendums that affect your state and your city. These can affect taxes, minimum wage, local teachers and so much more. If you don't vote, this is all out of your hands. Heck, because a lot of people don't do the research to see what's actually on the ballot besides the president, many people leave the smaller stuff blank. That means your vote makes more of a difference here!

Please vote. Please. Make a difference. Be proud of your choice. Be proud that you're participating in something people would give their lives for. Tweet me your "I Voted" stickers! Next week, back to geek!



Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump weren't just here for your Halloween amusement — get out and vote! GETTY IMAGES

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Keeping light in the face of war

Luke Bracey says director Mel Gibson knew how to keep the humor while making "Hacksaw Ridge."

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In "Hacksaw Ridge," Mel Gibson's first film in a decade, Luke Bracey plays an easily agitated, not very accepting World War II soldier who, along with his cadre of similarly closed-minded grunts, decries Desmond Doss' (Andrew Garfield) pacifism as cowardice. By the end of the film, Bracey's soldier, having witnessed Doss' courage under fire (he saves the lives of 75 men at Okinawa), has a change of heart, and they bond in a dirt trench over cans of processed meat — in between some of the most realistically violent battle scenes



GETTY IMAGES

ever committed to film.

Bracey, last seen in the Keanu Reeves role in the "Point Break" remake, talks to us about keeping things real and how Gibson is still, after all that's happened, a funny guy.

So, "Hacksaw Ridge" is insanely violent.

Yes, but that is what war is. We screened the film for a number of veterans, and last week in New Orleans some of them happened to have been at Hacksaw Ridge,

and one of them was Drew Brees' grandfather — you know, the quarterback for the Saints. As awful as it is, it's kind of humbling to hear these veterans say that the battle scenes are the most realistic depiction of war they've seen. To realize that's what real life horror is. I'm a history buff and so is Mel, so the movie



Luke Bracey, left, plays a soldier who initially gives a pacifist enlistee (Andrew Garfield, right) a hard time in Mel Gibson's war docudrama "Hacksaw Ridge." MARK ROGERS

had to be realistic.

Mel Gibson has a reputation for joking around on set.

Yes, Mel is the funniest guy. He's always telling jokes between takes. We didn't have time or a huge budget for jokes, but he'd come up to you between takes. You think he's going to give you some direction, but he just tells you a joke

and you start laughing. It's who he is, and it adds life to the shoot. It's actually a very funny film, and not just Vince Vaughn, who's one of the funniest people alive. It's that juxtaposition between the serious side of the film and the funny side. You gotta have the light and the dark.

What kind of jokes?
I don't remember. Like,

he would impersonate people. He's got a rubber voice. He would pretend to be Spanish or something, whatever. He's so transformative. He would be getting interviewed by a Spanish interviewer and he would talk to them in a Spanish accent.

Mel is a pretty controversial guy, but on your last film you worked

with someone who might be even more controversial: young star screenwriter Max Landis.

Yeah, Max is a great guy. He's so smart. He's high energy and he's got so much going on up there. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of superheroes. We had a good time. Clever dude. His love of stories is wonderful.

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'Radiant Vermin' tackles homelessness through fast-moving dark comedy

Imagine if you could have the home of your dreams without paying a cent but would need to sacrifice your own sense of morality. That's what happens in "Radiant Vermin," a work by English playwright Philip Ridley, where Ollie and Jill, a young English couple, pay the ultimate price in acquiring their dream home and in the process force the audience to confront their own views on homelessness. Philadelphia's Inis Nua Theatre Company tackles the fast-moving play through Nov. 6. We chat with director Claire Moyer about production challenges as well as making plays from the U.K. relevant to Philly audiences.

What drew you to produce "Radiant Vermin"?
We were looking at different options for next season and I work with Tom Ring, the artistic director,



The production runs through Nov. 6 at Inis Nua Theatre Company. KATIE REING

to put the whole season together. He handed this on to me and I wasn't sure it was the right fit, having read some of the playwright's other stuff. But then I read this one and loved the sense of humor. I loved how dark it was. I loved how far it goes. I kept expecting for there to be a way out for the characters. It was a scary play to do and that's kind of why I picked it. I

felt like it would be a real genuine challenge and something I would need to work really hard on and I wanted that challenge.

By the end of the play, Philip Ridley makes you feel even more awful about homelessness. What are your thoughts on that?
He makes the audience complicit and I think he

is really clever in that because it would be really easy for us to sit there and judge Jill and Ollie. He asks the audience to participate in the process of deciding how they should renovate their house. I think that the strongest thing he is looking at is the dehumanization of people. It is really easy for us to dismiss homeless people.

Inis Nua produces modern plays from Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. How do you make these works relevant to Philly audiences?
We do a good job with trying to curate a season that feels relevant and is tied into what Philadelphia is experiencing today. Last season, we did a play specifically about literacy and education and it was an opportunity to do some work with the Free Library of Philadelphia. JENNIFER LOGUE

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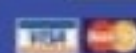
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WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

Where to watch the election in Philly

Some will be prepping doomsday shelters but the rest of us will simply need good company and alcohol.

JENNIFER LOGUE

The 2016 presidential election has been an absolute train wreck, but soon, it will be over — for better or (gulp) for worse. Where you decide to spend the evening of this momentous occasion will be something you'll never forget, so you might as well be in the company of fun people and a fully stocked bar. Here are our top picks on where to watch the polling

results on Election Day.

Party Lines: Election Night Special

Good Good Comedy
215 N. 11th St.
Tuesday, Nov. 8
10 p.m., \$5 in advance
goodgoodcomedy.com
The newly opened Good Good Comedy Theater in Chinatown is hosting a fun, election night edition of the show "Party Lines," where comedians will drive a

fun, political discussion about issues of the day. The evening will also feature live music and sketches.

Election Night Kickoff Party

Parkway Central Library
1901 Vine St.
Tuesday, Nov. 8
5:30-8 p.m., \$15
freelibrary.org
Mingle with fellow Americans of all party affiliations at the Parkway Central Library's Skyline

Room. Watch the polls, play presidential trivia and enjoy hors d'oeuvres as well as an open bar. Mixing politics with conflicting political views isn't a good idea so try not to debate each other.

White House Takeover Party

Tavern on Broad
200 S. Broad St.
Tuesday, Nov. 8
7 p.m.-midnight
tavernonbroad.com
Philly's Collaborative, a group

dedicated to young Jewish professionals, is hosting an election night event at Tavern on Broad. The evening will feature drink specials and will last until midnight. No matter how stressful the polling gets, this place has plenty of comfort food and alcohol to numb your pain. Chicken wings, anyone?

Election Night Special

L'Etage
624 S. Sixth St.

**Tuesday, Nov. 8
8-11 p.m.**
creperie-beaumonde.com
The romantic bar and live performance venue is a great choice for those of us that would rather escape the stress of polling results through music. Located above Creperie Beaumonde, the evening's lineup includes the mellow sounds of Adeline Hotel, Minor Moon, Kristian Rodriguez and Leaf Print. Hopefully one of the acts will perform a politically charged tune.

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HOT PLATE

Black truffle mac 'n' cheese



Jennifer Logue eats her way through Philly
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Since I've embarked on my foodie adventures, I've yet to stumble across a truffle in the flesh — until last week, that is. (Truffles are really expensive fungi.)

Sure, I've experienced truffle oil and truffle tapenades, but never an actual truffle, and it happened in a hidden gem of a restaurant — Fine Palate in Center City.

Open since last October, the restaurant describes itself as "multicuisine," with inventive interpretations of food from around the world. Its recently launched fall menu offers a mix of east and west, featuring items like tempura-fried shishito peppers and, of course, the black truffle mac 'n' cheese.

The latter immediately caught my eye when I was perusing the menu, given all the hype truffles have experienced in the culinary world. Curiosity piqued, I set myself up for a life-changing experience, which it was — but not in the way I expected.



Black truffle mac 'n' cheese PROVIDED

The black truffle mac 'n' cheese came out in a smooth stone bowl boasting a generous amount of shaved black truffles on top of a hearty helping of mac 'n' cheese.

This was no ordinary mac 'n' cheese, however. Forget traditional pasta varieties; this dish was made with fregola sarda, a Sardinian pasta that bears a resemblance to Israeli couscous, although much wider — about 2 millimeters

in diameter.

Covered in creamy Mornay cheese, each bite was unlike anything I've experienced as a pasta lover. Simple, soft and comforting, I'd get this dish again — even without the truffles.

So how about those truffles? Well, they definitely added a distinct earthy element to the dish. However, if truffles didn't need to be hunted down by truffle hogs

or specially trained dogs, would the world still be so obsessed? If they weren't superexpensive, would we really care that much?

While I don't think truffles are worth the hype, I do think this mac 'n' cheese is. Pair with a light-bodied red wine, and you've got a match made in comfort-food heaven.

Fine Palate is at 231 S. 15th St.

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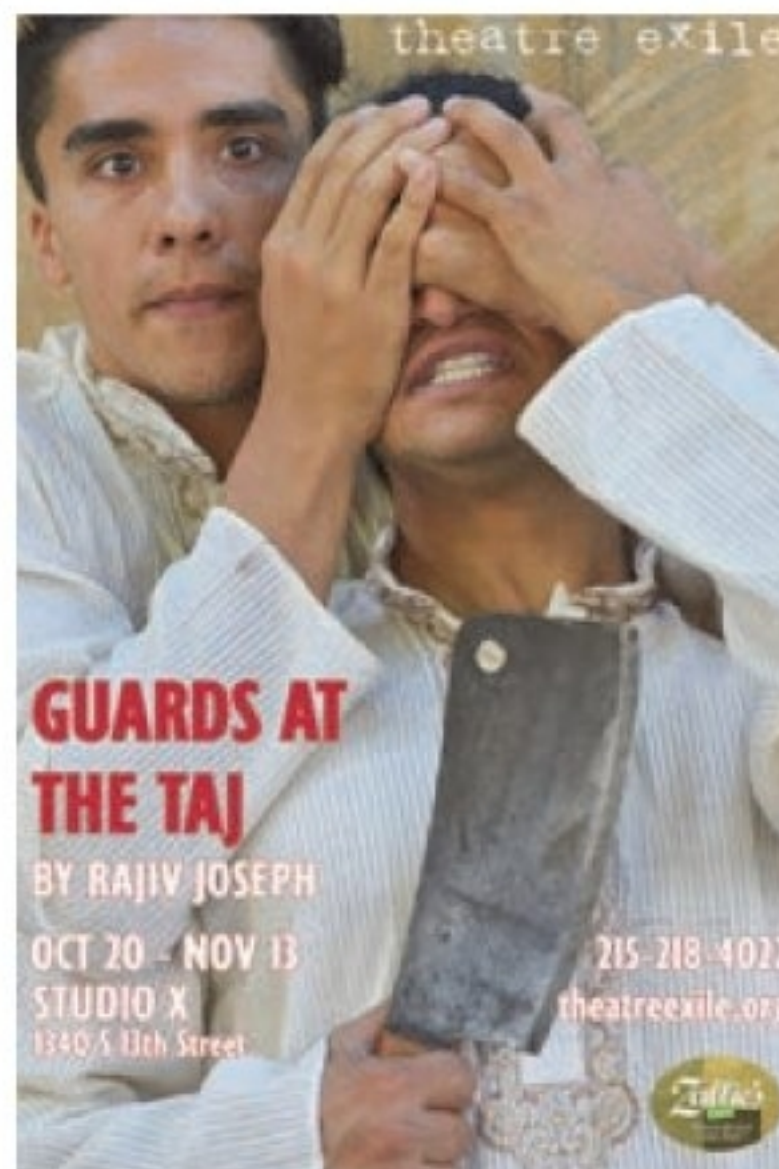
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YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW



Bacon and Beer Festival DANYA HENNINGER

Bacon and Beer Festival

Two of life's most delicious pleasures collide for this afternoon-long stuff-your-face fest at 23rd Street Armory. Local restaurants from around the city, like Bru Craft & Wurst, City Tap House and Taproom on 19th, will be on hand to dole out plates of their most inventive bacon-based dishes. Fifteen local breweries supply the suds so you can wash it all down.

Nov. 6, 2:30 p.m.-5 p.m.
23rd Street Armory, 22 S. 23rd St. \$50-\$85, nightout.com

FESTIVALS

The Great Harvest Cider and Beer Festival

The street in front of Hawthornes Cafe closes to vehicular traffic Saturday for this annual festival, which highlights a long list of mouth-watering hard ciders,

pumpkin ales and other seasonal brews. Food and live bands round out the atmosphere, with performances by classic rockers The John McNutt Band, bluegrass group Boulevard Express and blues artist Boy Wonder.

Nov. 5, 1-8 p.m.
Hawthornes
738 S. 11th St.
Pay as you go
hawthornecafe.com

Clover Market

Get a head start on your holiday gift list at this weekend's Clover Market in Bryn Mawr. The shopping extravaganza features dozens of vendors selling everything from antiques and jewelry to vintage clothing and home goods. Food trucks, like Bonjour Creperie, Milk + Sugar and Say Cheese, line up to fuel you up for a day of shopping. The Adam Monaco Band will have your feet tapping with a live performance from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Bryn Mawr
7 N. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Pay as you go
theclovermarket.com/
nov6market

MOVIES

Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival

The Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival returns Saturday with an opening night party and screening of acclaimed 2016 Israeli drama "One Week and a Day" at the Kimmel Center. After that comes a two-week

schedule of around 30 films from around the world — everything from full-lengths and documentaries to classic movies, like "Grand Hotel," highlighting the Jewish experience.

Nov. 5-19
Various locations
\$11-\$300
pjff.org

COMEDY

SportsMouth

Local comedian Shannon DeVido hosts a new monthly comedy show at Good Good Comedy that could be described as a mix of "The Daily Show" and ESPN. DeVido, featured on the Hulu sitcom "Difficult People" and "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore," hosts a rotating lineup of local comedians who offer humorous takes on the month's sports stories through sit-down interviews and "weird sketches." The show was written by her, Philly's Phunniest winner Chip Chantry and more. Laughs will surely abound.

Nov. 3, 8:30 p.m.
Good Good Comedy
215 N. 11th St.
\$5, goodgoodcomedy.com



PROVIDED

Bridget Everett

If you haven't seen her irreverent musical sets on "Inside Amy Schumer," you've likely cackled at her on TV series like "Lady Dynamite" or "Girls." Alt-cabaret queen Bridget Everett brings all that to Philly Friday night for a special one-night-only performance at the Fillmore. She is a continual sell-out at Joe's Pub in NYC, so you better snatch up those tickets quick.

Nov. 4, 8-11 p.m.
The Fillmore Philadelphia
29 E. Allen St.
\$28.50
livenation.com

PERFORMING ARTS

UniverSoul Circus

The country's first African-American-owned circus, UniverSoul Circus, sets up a big-top tent in Fairmount Park for three weeks of circus entertainment marking their 20th anniversary. Audiences should get ready for all the circus shenanigans, including contortionists, acrobats, airborne motorcycles and all kinds of aerial feats. Philadelphia is the final stop on this year's tour, which organizers describe as an evening of "hip-hop under the big top."

Nov. 3-27
Fairmount Park
52nd and Parkside streets
\$12-\$35
universoulcircus.com

Koresh Artists' Showcase

A lousy \$10 affords you a chance to see some of the city's most promising up-and-coming dancers, choreographers and performing artists before they make it big. Koresh Dance Company puts on this spotlight series to give emerging talents in Philadelphia the chance to do their thing in front of a larger



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November 6
The Amazing Junk Jam Band



November 20
Charlotte Blake Alston

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WHY COMPROMISE?



Koresh Artist Showcase (Koresh Youth Ensemble) FRANK BICKING

audience. This time around, acts include Abigayle Cryderman, Emily Kline & Co. and Just Sole! Street Dance Theater Company.
Nov. 5-6
Koresh Dance
2002 Rittenhouse Square
\$10 koreshdance.org

"The Letter H"

For the first time ever, Jersey playwright Ken Brady brings to Philadelphia a free performance of his acclaimed one-man show "The Letter H." Brady's native Had-donfield plays a prominent role in the show, which has traveled

the country with a message about the perils of a Donald Trump presidency.
Nov. 6, 7 p.m.
University City Arts League
4226 Spruce St.
Pay what you can
ucartsleague.org

ART

"World War I and American Art"

PAFA opens what it's calling the first major exhibition that explores the ways in which American artists reacted to the

first World War. Among the showpieces here is John Singer Sargent's moving "Gassed." It's on loan from the Imperial War Museums in London and hasn't been seen in the U.S. since 1999. That's just one of 160 pieces — everything from paintings to photographs to sculptures — by 80 artists. If you want to peep it early, stop by the opening reception on Nov. 3 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Nov. 3-April 9, 2017
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 118-128 N. Broad St.
\$15, pafa.org
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Opening Film - Thurs, Nov 10 7pm
The Tiger Hunter I-House, 3701 Chestnut St
Dir: Lena Khan | 2016 | Comedy, Drama
Danny Pudi (NBC's *Community*) stars as a young Indian man who relocates to 1970s Chicago to become an engineer. When his job falls through, he resorts to an elaborate charade with misfit friends in order to woo the woman of his dreams. Free reception with Indian dance music and food.

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NOVEMBER 10-20, 2016

Sun Nov 20, 6:30pm
Closing Film
Mele Murals
Asian Arts Initiative, 1219 Vine St
Dir: Tadashi Nakamura | 2016 | Doc
A compelling film on the power of modern graffiti art and reclamation of indigenous culture by a new generation of Native Hawaiians. Free Hawaiian Food.

No such thing as too niche

These little museums of oddities reveal our curious nature.

Fodor'sTravel

Bigfoot Discovery Project and Museum

In 1967, Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin recorded what they claimed was a female Sasquatch running through the forests of Oregon. It is the definitive evidence for Bigfoot enthusiasts, so of course an exhibit on the film is a focus of the Bigfoot Museum in Felton, California. Alongside local tales and memorabilia like matchbooks and toys, you'll also find plaster foot and handprints, and what is allegedly dried

droppings from the beast.

Museum of Bad Art

Art is subjective, sure, but this community-run museum cherishes all the (mal)forms, displaying it across three locations in Massachusetts — two fittingly outside of theater bathrooms. The inaugural piece, “Lucy in the Sky with Flowers,” was discovered in the garbage. You can also see the collection online, meticulously detailed with descriptions and helpfully sorted into categories like portraiture, landscape, “noods” (nudes) and the more obscure “blue people.”

Spam Museum

"Please don't eat the exhibits" reads a sign at this museum dedicated

to the 8-decade-old all-American lunch meat Spam, which itself either represents "Spiced Ham" or "Shoulder of Pork and Ham." Found in Austin, Minnesota, home to the Spam factory, the 14,000-square-foot museum houses Spam memorabilia and explores its role in culture, including Spam's role in the military during World War II.

Museum of the American Gangster

Americans are obsessed with gangster stories, which is evident in this museum, located above a former New York City speakeasy frequented by the likes of Al Capone, Lucky Luciano and John Gotti. The two rooms are packed with encyclopedic



Momofuku Ando Instant Ramen Museum GETTY IMAGES

**Momofuku Ando
Instant Ramen
Museum**

In 1958 Momofuku Ando invented the first instant noodles, which he called Chicken Ramen, after a year of researching and tinkering in a shed in his backyard. Today about 100 billion bowls are eaten every year worldwide. This museum in Osaka, Japan, is not only a monument to the noodle and the man, but also to the spirit of invention. You'll also go get hands-on with experiences like the My Cup Noodles factory, where you can design your own packaging and flavors.

memorabilia: bullets from the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, a range of firearms, including an actual Tommy gun, and two death masks. See how Prohibition only fostered more new, imaginative crime, or take a tour with stops including a spot where Frank Sinatra once slung drinks.

remarkably detailed shaker depicting JFK on his rocker. Many of them are also for sale in the museum's gift shop.

glass-bottom boats and snorkeling will also get you close to the site.

Hammer Museum

In the beginning, there was the hammer. The importance of the first known tool is not lost on this Alaska museum, which, with 2,000 artifacts, not only chronicles the history of the hammer but includes different types of the tool. Sometimes the facts are not so fun; one item on display is the Winterhilfswerk Hammer Pin, given to donors in an annual charity drive organized by the Nazi Party.

Dog Collar Museum

Dog fashion has evolved alongside the human variety over the years, and while today the accessory serves mostly to amuse us on Halloween, history would hold a few more uses. The Dog Collar Museum, located inside Leeds Castle in Kent, England, spans from when spikes were used to protect hunting dogs in the early 15th century to the decorative collars of the 18th century.

Vent Haven Ventriloquist Museum

Wooden alter egos abound at this Kentucky museum, which houses more than 800 ventriloquist ("Vent") dummies. It also chronicles the history of the craft through thousands of photographs, playbills and letters. You'll even find some books that date back to the 1700s.

International Spy Museum

Although it may sound like a destination for conspiracy theorists, the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C., deals in fact: the history of intelligence and espionage as told through individual stories, artifacts and, should you choose to accept your mission, interactive exhibits. Of course, as the exciting world of spydom has captured the public imagination, fictional stories are highlighted as well, like an exhibit of Bond villains.



International Spy Museum
GETTY IMAGES

chronicle of how humans have dealt with sanitation throughout history. Divided into three eras — ancient, medieval and modern — you'll find chamber pots from ancient Greece, decorative Austrian urinals, bedpans, bidets and a replica of the other throne used by King Louis XIV.

Cancun Underwater Museum

Making a case for how cool it would be to live underwater, the Museo Subacuatico de Arte is the largest man-made underwater attraction in the world, consisting of more than 400 sculptures. Erected in 2009 with works by English sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor, the Mexican museum is more than just a cool attraction; it also promotes reef conservation. And you don't have to have a scuba license to witness eerie splendor—

Salt and Pepper Shaker Museum

With over 20,000 sets of salt and pepper shakers, this museum near Gatlinburg, Tennessee, is a tribute to how these common spices have helped shape our tableware. See everything from pop culture examples like the mop-topped Beatles shakers to presidential memorabilia, like the



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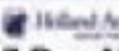
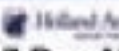
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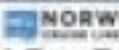
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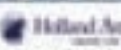
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Pederson on Huff: 'I can't control what you do outside'

Is Doug Pederson losing control over his locker room?



EVAN MACY
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evan.macy@metro.us

NFL players are adults. They make their own decisions and must own up to them.

Doug Pederson, head coach of the Eagles who has dealt with off-field incidents a half dozen times now in less than a full season at the helm as a rookie head coach, is doing the best he can.

"I can't control what you do outside," the coach said Wednesday. "Once you leave here, I don't know what you are going to do. Now, I'm not responsible for you, but I can't control what you

do once you leave these premises. Neither can the Philadelphia Eagles control what I do once I leave these premises."

Josh Huff, wide receiver and kick returner, was pulled over and arrested on the Walt Whitman Bridge Tuesday. After spending the day in jail, he paid \$25,000 bail and is likely facing charges of a DUI (he was reportedly smoking marijuana in the vehicle), possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana and several possible weapons charges stemming from a handgun that was in the car. He had it registered in Texas but not New Jersey. He also had six hollow-point bullets. Reports suggest he was open and forthcoming with the arresting officer.

Pederson has handled

legal issues with linebacker Nigel Bradham and Nelson Agholor. He had to handle the baggage that came with the trade for Dorial Green-Backham, and the off-field quarterback controversy when Sam Bradford refused to attend practices this summer. And with Lane Johnson awaiting his inevitable 10-game suspension.

Pederson didn't waver. He wants to keep it out of the building, give his players the benefit of the doubt and move forward until he hears otherwise.

"I just know who I am as person, and I try to relay that to the team and just let them know that, hey, guys, you have to [know] the spotlight is on us," Pederson said. "In this city, in this market, the spotlight is on everything we do.



Doug Pederson has dealt with off-field distractions left and right this season. GETTY IMAGES

You have to be smart. You have to make right choices. You have to do things differently. You just have to do them differently because everything is magnified."

Several players, particularly fellow wideout Jordan Matthews, voiced support for Huff, as did the head coach. With so many players coming from so

many backgrounds and situations, it's hard to be there for everyone at once.

"My job, too, sometimes is to be that father figure for some of these players and understanding their history and where they've come from and how they grew up," the coach said. "It may not be how I grew up as a

child or as an adolescent or a teen — whatever. But at the same time, I'm going to wrap my arm around them and love on them and try to show them the right direction."

Huff, Pederson says, will suit up Sunday against the Giants and will have his regular spot in the wide receiver and kickoff rotation.

Huff: 'What professional athlete doesn't own a gun?'

Josh Huff spoke to the media for the first time after being arrested Tuesday. He will likely face charges for having an unregistered gun (it is registered in Texas), having six hollow-point bullets and under 50 grams of marijuana.

When asked why he had a handgun, the wide receiver replied: "What professional athlete doesn't own a gun?"

He was also asked why he had hollow-point bullets, to which he responded, "for protection."

Huff said he apologized to his teammates and to coach Doug Pederson, who confirmed the two sat and chatted when Huff returned to the NovaCare Center Wednesday after a players day off Tuesday.

"Well, I'll just tell you this, he was very dejected and very disappointed," Pederson said of their meeting. "You know, very apologetic, obviously. [He] said it



Josh Huff has had his best season in the NFL so far this year. GETTY IMAGES

wouldn't happen again."

Was Huff bringing the gun to work with him?

"I'm not Gilbert Arenas, bro," Huff told reporters. "I'm not bringing a gun on the premises."

It's the second gun-related arrest the team has seen this year, with Nigel Bradham's inci-

dent in Miami the first earlier this season.

"I don't necessarily understand why they need guns outside of maybe sport hunting or whatever," Pederson told the media earlier Wednesday. "But we just continue to educate our players and try to curb it the best we can."

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#340 Darryl Northington, #384 John Ellis, #493 Agnieszka K. Czapka



Darren Sproles has emerged as the main back in Philly. GETTY IMAGES

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Week 9 marks the continuation of the "bye week blues" — with six teams having the week off, so it's more important now than ever to be alert on the waiver wire. Be sure to check out Rotoballer.com's Fantasy Football Waiver Wire Tool for up-to-the-hour waiver wire advice and ideas, and to follow me @Roto_Dubs for quick-hitting news and analysis.

Sparkplug Sproles a not-so-sneaky RB2

Ryan Mathews has clearly fallen out of favor with head coach Doug Pederson and the rest of the Philadelphia Eagles coaching staff, and as he loses touches, diminutive veteran Darren Sproles gains them. In the Eagles' heartbreaking overtime loss to the Cowboys on Sunday night, Sproles out-touched Mathews 20-

5, and cemented himself as the back to own in the quick-hitting, short-range Philadelphia offense. His value is even higher in PPR formats, but Sproles should be usable in all formats as a RB2 from here on out.

Explosive rookie ready to return for Cleveland

Cleveland Browns rookie wide out Corey Coleman exploded onto the fantasy scene in Week 2, posting 104 yards and two touchdowns on five catches. Unfortunately, a broken hand has kept him off the field since then. He is currently cleared for practice, and should be able to suit up unimpeded against the Cowboys in Week 9. With either Josh McCown or Cody Kessler under center for the Browns, there is some life to that offense, and Coleman has a great shot to step in and make an immediate impact opposite Terrelle Pryor.

Saints workhorse in the doghouse

Saints feature back Mark Ingram

NFL sleepers of the week

Each week we will identify three players worth taking a shot on in deeper leagues.

Austin Hooper, TE, Atlanta Falcons

The Falcons' rookie tight end will draw the start on Thursday night with Jacob Tamme out, and should finally be able to showcase his excellent ball skills and above-average speed.

Charcandrick West, RB, Arizona Cardinals

With Jamaal Charles still not recovered from his ACL surgery and Spencer Ware struggling with concussion protocol, West should be the feature back in a great matchup against the Jaguars in Week 9.

J.J. Nelson, WR, Arizona Cardinals

Nelson is currently the No. 2 WR in Arizona, and has 163 yards and two TDs on 11 catches over his last two games. He's flex-worthy in deeper leagues.

was benched toward the beginning of Week 8's game against the Seahawks after a fumble, and was inexplicably not given another touch. It's incredibly unlikely that one fumble caused a complete benching (there seems to be something else at play here), but regardless of the reason it appears that the Saints

will now employ a time-share in the backfield. Veteran Tim Hightower, who thrived at the end of the 2015 season when Ingram was placed on IR, will split touches with Ingram moving forward according to head coach Sean Payton, meaning Ingram's days of RB2 production are likely over.

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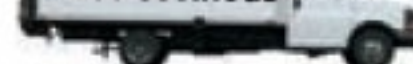
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Joel 'the Process' Embiid's rookie season is truly that — a process

Joel Embiid is the leader — very early — in the running for NBA Rookie of the Year.

What he's been able to do in limited minutes with a rag-tag team of inexperienced ball players is extremely impressive.

In their third loss of the season Tuesday, by two to the equally lowly Orlando Magic, Embiid had his first double-double, posting 18 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks.

Early in the game he was dynamic and the offense ran through him.

Late in the game, he wasn't as impressive. He really lived up to his nickname "the Process."

As the Sixers blew an 18-point second half lead, Embiid had a chance to be a hero as Philly held the ball in a tie game with just second left. A failed dribble hand off led to a turnover, an intentional foul and a two-point setback.

"Next time when we



Joel Embiid will get a few days off before returning to the floor Saturday against Cleveland. GETTY IMAGES

have the lead like that we have to be ready to play," Embiid said, visibly down on himself after the loss.

"I feel like we're seeing Jo try to get his balance and his hands; he just hasn't played for so long. And we're seeing that tonight, kind of all over the place," head coach Brett Brown said. "I see Joel fatiguing right now quickly. He goes three,

four minutes and you can just sort of see it in his game and in his face, and so we sit him. Tonight, we were able to get 24 minutes out of it and tried to do it in different sections. I'm happy the way that played out. We had him on the court when we needed to."

Embiid was seen talking to a ref after every negative call, whether it

be a turnover or a foul, to learn what he needs to do better.

As his minutes increase so will the responsibilities Philly puts on him. He'll sit Wednesday night when the Sixers play Charlotte in the second game of a back-to-back, but he'll be back on the floor Saturday to host the defending champion Cavaliers. EVAN MACY

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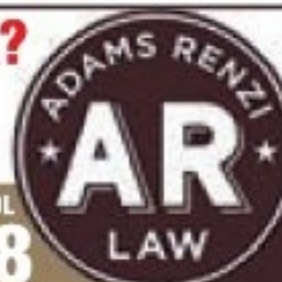
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**DEADLINE: 2 BUSINESS
DAYS PRIOR TO
PUBLICATION AT 4 PM.**





Across

- 1 Rain forest parrot
- 6 Sound reasoning
- 11 Chinese "way"
- 14 Suspect's need
- 15 Socrates' hangout
- 16 Bad actor
- 17 Of yore
- 18 Fish basket
- 19 Before, to bards
- 20 Ess moldings
- 22 Tire center
- 24 Degree holder
- 28 Basic assumptions
- 29 Ceremony
- 30 Moon position
- 32 Hieroglyphics bird
- 33 Orchard yield
- 35 Kitchen meas.
- 39 Coy
- 40 Visitor from Melmac
- 41 "The Gambler" actor
- 42 German coal region
- 43 Meat-stock jelly
- 45 Valjean's creator
- 46 Vows
- 48 Kitchen gadget
- 50 Bright songster
- 53 Pretense
- 54 - globulin
- 55 Reel
- 57 Double helix
- 58 Messy quarters

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/games

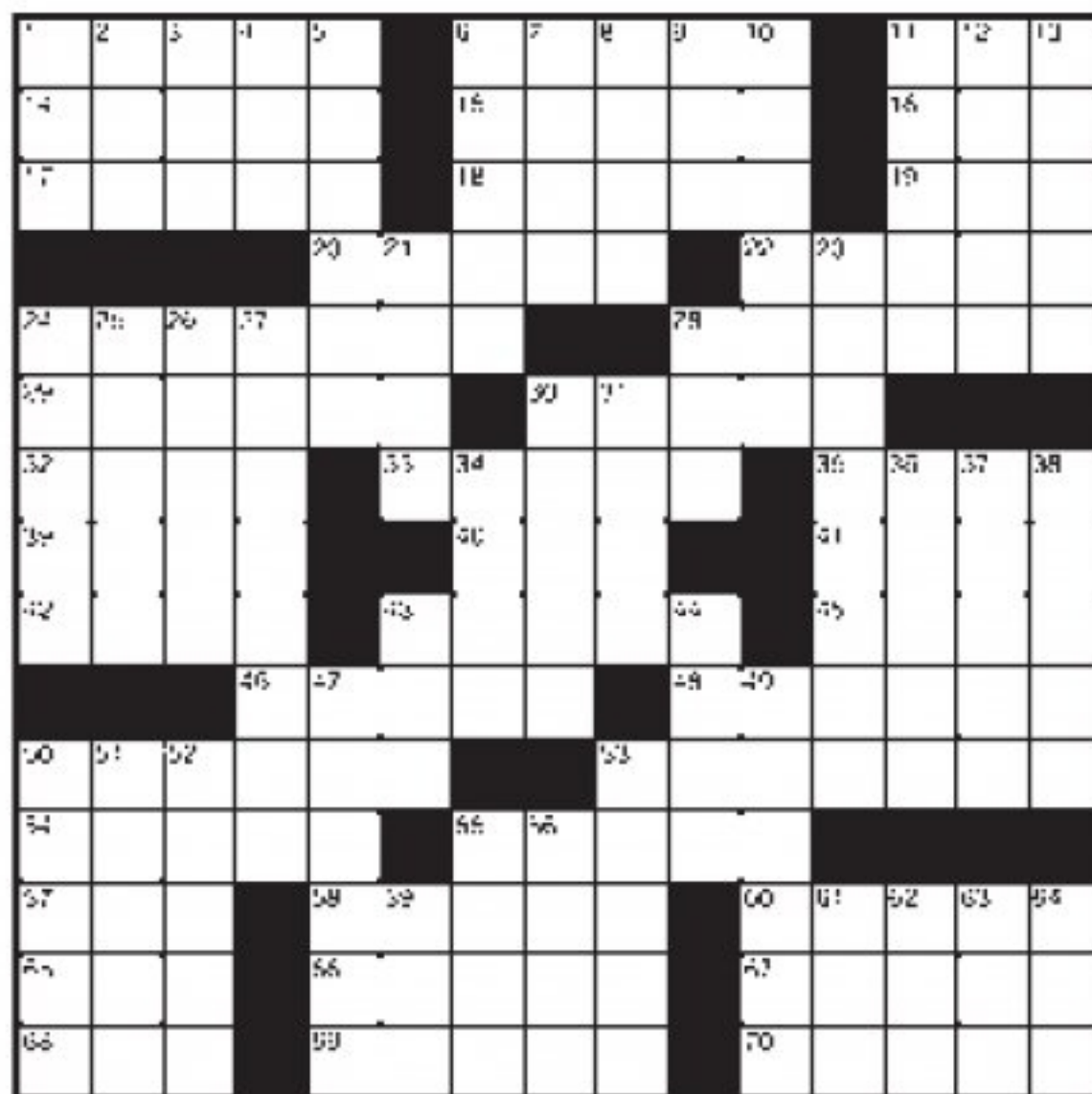
- 60 Emcee's remarks
- 65 Turtle-to-be
- 66 Jeweler's unit
- 67 Defiant reply
- 68 PBS "Science Guy"
- 69 Ice-skating jumps
- 70 Mural base

Down

- 1 "Little Red Book" author
- 2 The works
- 3 British FBI
- 4 Homer's dad
- 5 A Ryder
- 6 Shoestrings
- 7 Horrible boss
- 8 Leaves
- 9 Cholera

- 10 Port opposite Dover
- 11 Yonder
- 12 "Rodeo" Composer - Copland
- 13 Shamans watch for them
- 21 Wide gap
- 23 Whine expert?
- 24 Tunes for divas
- 25 October sign
- 26 Carthage neighbor
- 27 Grow out of control
- 28 Hood's weapon
- 30 Lurid novels
- 31 LP player (hyph.)
- 34 Headstrong
- 36 Dry-heat bath
- 37 Leafed through
- 38 Disturb a sleeper
- 43 Corroded, as acid
- 44 Salmon variety
- 47 Gold Rush state
- 49 Fence stake
- 50 Utah city
- 51 Tall and lanky
- 52 Reflection
- 53 Sells for
- 55 Foal's parent
- 56 Clap of thunder
- 59 Kind of shelter
- 61 Born as
- 62 Motel room fixtures
- 63 Legal matter
- 64 El Dorado loot

metro.us/crossword

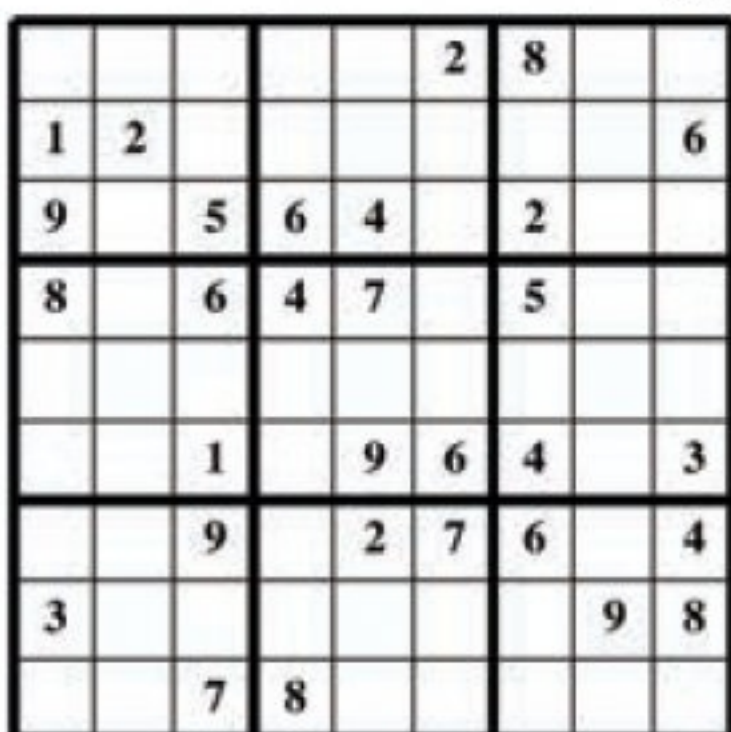


metro.us/sudoku

easy



hard



metro.us/horoscopes



Aries Get moving. Do your own thing and avoid interference. Celebrate your accomplishments with a loved one. A romantic gesture will improve your personal life.



Taurus Going on a day trip or taking on an intellectual challenge will encourage you to add to your qualifications. Live within your means in order to ease your stress.



Gemini You can bring about change if you are passionate and dedicated to a cause you believe in. An interesting relationship will bring additional opportunities your way.



Cancer You can mix business with pleasure in order to improve your relationships all around. Take any opportunity you get to share your ideas.



Leo A trip or retreat will do you good. Take your health into your own hands and make a point to get fit and improve your diet. Romance is highlighted.



Virgo Rely on your knowledge, expertise and skills to help you make an important choice. A partnership will require special attention and compassionate words.



Libra Test the waters and try something that has always been of interest to you. Don't give someone a false impression. Put more time and effort into personal change.



Scorpio Bring about change instead of waiting for it to come to you. Set the standard and don't stop until you are satisfied with what you have accomplished.



Sagittarius You'll be tempted to brag and make promises that you won't be able to keep. Take a step back and rethink your motives. Aim to finish what you start.



Capricorn Deal with your responsibilities as best you can before you embark on an adventure. You'll have a better time if you've taken care of business.



Aquarius Lending a helping hand will also give you the upper hand. Bring about positive changes that will make your work less stressful. Invest in yourself.



Pisces Benefits will result if you have the courage to make the changes that are necessary to achieve your goal. Use your intelligence to win favors. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers



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Do you or a loved one have schizophrenia?



If so, please contact HRI Trials today about inpatient and outpatient medical research studies

Qualified participants must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Currently experience symptoms of Schizophrenia

Qualified participants receive:

- All study related evaluations and study medication at no cost
- Total compensation ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000 for time and travel

For more information, call **866-410-3838** • **HRI Trials.com**



Do you have bipolar disorder?



Are you currently experiencing depression?

If so, please contact HRI Trials today about research studies of investigational medications for bipolar depression.

Qualified participants must:

- Be at least 18 years of age • Currently experience symptoms of Bipolar disorder

Qualified participants receive:

- All study-related evaluations and study medication at no cost
- Compensation up to \$600.00 for time and travel



For more information, call **866-350-6464**



DEPRESSED?

Are you treating your depression with medication?
Are you still feeling depressed?

If so, please call Hassman Research Institute about participating in our research study of an investigational drug for adults with treatment-resistant depression.

Qualified participants must: • Be 18 or older • Be taking prescribed antidepressant medication

Be currently experiencing a depressive episode

Insurance is not required to participate in our study, and all study-related care and study medications are provided at no charge. Transportation and compensation up to \$7,500 for time and travel may be available.



For more information, call toll-free **866-264-4545**
or visit **HRI Trials.com**